

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status

Claims 1-30 were pending.

Claims 26-28 have been cancelled to further prosecution on the merits and only to obtain prompt allowance of claims reciting subject matter indicated being allowed by the Examiner.

Claim 22 is currently being amended for clarity.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-25, 29, and 30 are now pending in this application.

The Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 1-25, 29, and 30 were allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,229,850 titled “Kayak” issued on October 28, 1980 to Arcouette (“Arcouette”).

The Examiner stated that Arcouette discloses a

Means 6 and 7 are located between the deck and the hull floor for providing structural support to the hull. The structural means 6 and 7 are retained in place by the pressure exerted on the structural means by the deck and hull. It is the nature of the structure that energy impacted on the hull is returned, in part.

In Section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that

The structural elements 6 and 7 performs the same function as the structural elements 46 and 50 disclosed in the application, and as such these elements are the equivalent of the claims "means for providing structural support".

The Applicants respectfully disagree with, and do not acquiesce in these descriptions of Arcouette. However, to obtain a prompt allowance, the Applicants have cancelled Claims 26-28 without prejudice to further the prosecution on the merits.

* * *

The Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Previous Atty. Dkt. No. 060127-0165
New Atty. Dkt. No. 036025-0126

Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/8/2005

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